Appln. No. 09/752,580
Amendment dated June 2, 2005
Reply to Notice of Allowance dated May 17, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1.   (Previously Presented) A method for responding to an electronic mail message selected by a user, where the user accesses a mailbox adapted to store one or more electronic mail messages, each electronic mail message having a unique identified and an identifier storage field, the method comprising the steps of:

retrieving the unique identifier of the selected electronic mail message;

searching the mailbox for at least one related electronic mail message having the unique identifier of the selected electronic mail message in the identifier storage field of said related electronic mail message;

if at least one related electronic mail message having the unique identifier is located in the mailbox during said searching the mailbox step, determining which of the selected electronic mail message and the at least one related electronic mail message has a latest sent time; and

providing information relating to results of said searching the mailbox step, including differentiating the electronic mail message having the latest sent time from any other electronic mail message having the unique identifier.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of displaying to the user said information relating to said results of said searching the mailbox step.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said displaying step is executed in response to a request from the user to respond to the selected electronic mail message.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said information relating to said results of said searching the mailbox step comprises a count of said related electronic mail messages found in said searching the mailbox step.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said information relating to said results of said searching the mailbox step comprises the unique identifier of each said related electronic mail message found in said searching the mailbox step.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein each electronic mail message further comprises a time field for storing a sent time, and wherein said searching the mailbox step further comprises the step of searching the time field of each said related electronic mail message for a sent time later than the sent time of the selected electronic mail message.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said information relating to said results of said searching the mailbox step comprises date data relating to results of said searching the time field step.

8.   (Cancelled)

9.   (Cancelled)

10.   (Previously Presented) A method for generating a response to a first electronic mail message received by a user, the first electronic mail message received from a mailbox associated with the user and adapted to store one or more electronic mail messages, each electronic mail message having a unique identifier, an identifier storage field, and a time field for storing a sent time, comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from the user to respond to the first electronic mail message;

retrieving the unique identifier of the first electronic mail message;

receiving information about related electronic mail messages stored in the mailbox and determined from a search of the mailbox to be sent in response to the first electronic mail message based on the unique identifier of the first electronic mail message, said receiving information step including the step of determining which said related electronic mail message has a latest sent time in the time field;

displaying said information to the user; and

highlighting to the user said related electronic mail message having the latest sent time in the time field.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said related electronic mail messages are determined to be sent in response to the first electronic mail message if the unique identifier of the first electronic mail message is stored in the identifier storage field of said related electronic mail message.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said information displayed to the user comprises a count of said related electronic mail messages.

13. Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said information displayed to the user comprises a listing of said related electronic mail messages, wherein said listing includes at least one of a sender, a recipient, a subject, a sent time, and a message body.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

generating a reply electronic mail message to said first electronic mail message, said reply electronic mail message comprising a reply identifier storage field; and

storing the unique identifier of the first electronic mail message in said reply identifier storage field of said reply electronic mail message.

15. through 17. (Cancelled)

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18.   (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium having embodied thereon a computer program, the computer program being executable by a machine to perform a method for responding to an electronic mail message selected by a user, where the user accesses a mailbox adapted to store one or more electronic mail messages, each electronic mail message having a unique identifier, an identifier storage field, and a time field for storing a sent time, the method comprising the steps of:

retrieving the unique identifier of the selected electronic mail message;

searching the mailbox for at least one related electronic mail message having the unique identifier of the selected electronic mail message in the identifier storage field of said related electronic mail message, said searching the mailbox step including the steps of:

searching the time field of each said related electronic mail message for a sent time later than the sent time of the selected electronic mail message; and

determining which said related electronic mail message has a latest sent time in the time field;

providing information relating to results of said searching the mailbox step, including differentiating the electronic mail message determined to have the latest sent time from any other electronic mail message having the unique identifier.

19.   (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 18, further comprising the step of displaying to the user said information relating to said results of said searching the mailbox step.

20. through 23. (Cancelled)

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24. (Previously Presented) A method for generating a response to a first electronic mail message received by a user, the first electronic mail message received from a mailbox associated with the user and adapted to store one or more electronic mail messages, each electronic mail message having a unique identifier a time field for storing a sent time, an identifier storage field, and comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from the user to respond to the first electronic mail message;

retrieving the unique identifier of the first electronic mail message;

receiving information about related electronic mail messages stored in the mailbox and determined from a search of the mailbox to be sent in response to the first electronic mail message based on the unique identifier of the first electronic mail message, said receiving information step including the step of determining which said related electronic mail message has a latest sent time in the time field;

displaying said information to the user; and

opening for the user said related electronic mail message having the latest sent time in the time field.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of differentiating the electronic mail message having the latest sent time includes visually differentiating the electronic mail message.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the step of visually differentiating comprises highlighting the electronic mail message having the latest sent time.

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27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the step of visually differentiating comprises opening the electronic mail message having the latest sent time.